(c) and (d) The following are the important steps taken by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MEPDA) for tapping the foreign markets and increasing India's share:—

(i) Participating in Trade Fairs abroad for creating a greater awarenes about Indian products.

(ii) Organising Buyer-Seller Meets coinciding with a few major international seafood fairs.

(iii) Sending trade delegations abroad.

(iv) Inviting overseas experts to India.

(v) The Trade Promotion Officers of MPEDA at Tokyo and New York are engaged in market promotion activities in the respective countries for promotion of exports of marine products from India.

Increase of Issue Price of Sugar under PDS

2115. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering to raise issue price of sugar under the Public Distributing System;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to raise the price of sugar to Rs. 11 per Kg.;

(c) if so, what are the other items on which the control prices are being increased; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to increase the price of sugar under the PDS though the Government is considering its implications in relation to the Food subsidy.

Decrease in the Prices of Imported Coal

2116. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of imported coal were suddenly brought down on the 22nd of March, 1996 three days after the Model Code of Conduct was made applicable;

(b) if so, the reasons as well as the effect thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to this Cement Industry is importing coal on a very large scale; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that our own indigenous coal is sold in more quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Prices of imported coal are not fixed either by the Government or the Public Sector Coal companies.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to para (a).

(c) Imports of coal are under OGL and as such imports are made by the consumers themselves their own commerical judgement.

(d) Coal produced in the country is completely sold except for marginal quantities of coal produced in certain pockets where there are constrains in reaching the markets on account of transportation bottlenecks.